

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01098 012221Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 HA-05 DOE-11
SOE-02 /103 W
-----123290 012225Z /41

P R 012154Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 994
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS CARACAS 1098

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB SHUM NU BE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN BOYCOTT OF OIL SHIPMENTS TO NICARAGUA

REF: CARACAS 664 (NOTAL)

1. THE VENEZUELAN FEDERATION OF PETROLEUM WORKERS (FEDEPETROL) INITIATED A BOYCOTT AGAINST PETROLEUM SHIPMENTS TO NICARAGUA AT 5:00 PM JANUARY 31. FEDROPETROL UNDERTOOK THE BOYCOTT AT THE REQUEST OF THE CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) TO PROTEST THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD THE STRIKE IN NICARAGUA. THE CTV INSTRUCTION TO FEDEPETROL WAS MADE PUBLID AND STATES IN PART THAT "IN VIEW OF ...THE CONSTANT VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE PART OF THE DESPITIC GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMOZA DYNASTY AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE HEROIC STRUGGLE THAT IS BEING CARRIED ON BY THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE, WE WORKERS CANNOT AVOID TAKING ACTIONS OF SOLIDARITY."

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2. IN ANNOUNCING ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE CTV BOYCOTT ORDER, FEDEPETROL ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE STATING THAT THE BOYCOTT WAS A REACTION TO "THE DICTATORSHIP OF GENERAL ANASTASO SOMOZA, WHO HAS DENIED THE FREEDON OF TRADE UNION ASSOCIATION, KILLED AND PERSECUTED THE WORKING CLASS AND PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA."

3. COMMENT: CTV PRONOUNCEMENTS OF THIS TYPE USUALLY ARE SIGNED ONLY BY CTV PRESIDENT JOSE VARGAS, WHO IS ALSO A LEADER IN THE RULING ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY. THIS LETTER, HOWEVER, WAS ALSO SIGNED BY THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY (COPEI) SECRETARY GENERAL OF CTV, RAFAEL LEON LEON. THUS THE LETTER CARRIES CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL FORCE SINCE BOTH COPEI AND AD, THE TWO DOMINANT POLITICAL PARTIES ARE IDENTIFIED WITH IT. THE BOYCOTT FOLLOWS CLOSELY AFTER THE CTV'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT JANUARY 20 OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE HUNGER STRIKERS IN BOLIVIA (SEE REFTTEL). MOREOVER, RAFAEL LEON HAS JUST RETURNED TO CARACAS RECENTLY FROM PARAGUAY WHERE HE INTERCEDED ON BEHALF OF JAILED PARAGUAYAN TRADE UNIONISTS. THUS THE CTV IS TAKING AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE ROLE ON BEHALF OF HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THE BOYCOTT TOOK EFFECT IMMEDIATELY ON JANUARY 31 WHEN WORKERS REFUSED TO LOAD A NICARAGUA-BOUND OIL TANKER. DIRECT VENEZUELAN EXPORTS TO CRUDE OIL AND PRODUCTS TO NICARAGUA AMOUNTED TO 4.8 MILLION BARRELS IN 1976.
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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OILS, CARGO HANDLING, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802108/aaaadncb.tel
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Litigation History:
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